CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

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VALLEY GAY PRESS

SINCE IN 1998

THE LEHIGH VALLEY & BERKS COUNTY'S GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 9 NO. 8 OCTOBER 2006

PDN BINGO

Sunday, October 22nd

5pm-9pm

The Barrister's Club

1114 West Walnut Street, Allentown

$20 in advance/$25 at door

Hundreds of dollars in cash prizes!!

Limited Seating- Reserve now at:

610-432-5449/ info@padiversity.org

Non-smoking event. Sandwiches & refreshments for sale.

Benefits The PA Diversity Network, Valley Gay Press, Rainbow Families, The Greater Lehigh Valley GLBT Infoline and The PDN Resource.

GAIL HOOVER WINS AHRC AWARD

For her work encouraging the news media to produce Public Service Announcements on domestic violence, her life-long commitment to support of disadvantaged people, and her successful efforts as a former City Councilperson to introduce an ordinance that added sexual orientation and gender identity to Allentown's Non-Discrimination Ordinance, making her the only Allentown Councilperson to date to successfully pass legislation expanding Allentown's existing civil rights law.

EARL BALL

LYNN ROGERS

GLBT COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO SERVE ON EASTON HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Easton citizens Earl Ball and Lynn Rogers have accepted appointments on the newly forming Easton Human Relations Commission which will be charged with enforcing Easton's new Non-Discrimination Ordinance which protects people from discrimination, in a variety of classes including sexual orientation and gender identity.

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY, OCT 11

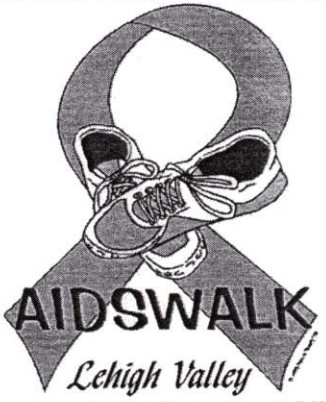
read more about it on page 3.

RENDELL TO ATTEND AIDSWALK

SEE PAGE 7

AIDS WALK 2006

Bethlehem Rose Garden
8th Ave. & Union Blvd.
October 1
Registration: 11am Walk: 1:00pm



www.factlv.org E-mail: info@factlv.org (610) 820-5519

Benefits F.A.C.T. Fighting AIDS Continuously Together and Local HIV/AIDS Agencies

PA DIVERSITY NETWORK & VALLEY GAY PRESS PRESENT: BINGO!!!

Sunday, October 22, 5pm to 9pm at the Barrister's Club, 1114 W. Walnut Street, Allentown. Hundreds of dollars in cash prizes!!! Other fabulous prizes as well!!! Ticket price to play all night is just $20 if paid in advance or $25 dollars at the door. A non smoking event. Soft drinks, sandwiches and other snacks available for sale.

This event will benefit PA Diversity Network, the Valley Gay Press, Rainbow Families, the Greater Lehigh Valley GLBT Infoline, the PDN Resource Web Site and other PDN programs.

For information or to volunteer contact PDN Executive Director Liz Bradbury: email info@padiversity.org or call 610-432-5449.

MCC BANQUET OCTOBER 7

read more about it on page 3

PDN HOLIDAY ART & CRAFT SHOW NOV. 17, 18, 19

read more about it on page 9

GLBT Infoline

Greater Lehigh Valley

610-HELP-123

(610-435-7123)

BECOME A PDN MEMBER TO RECEIVE THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL, SEE PAGE 5

Dear WTA, I read Rev. Beth Goudy's column about equality in the religion section of the Morning Call and it was good, but it seemed to end kind of sharply. Was that really the way she wrote it? **Signed, Call Reader**

Dear Call Reader, No, as a matter of fact, Rev. Goudy's MCall column was drastically edited, without her approval. The Call article omitted all the names of the businesses, colleges and organizations she included. Nearly every line was changed. While one can see why the Call did it, it certainly makes the column significantly weaker. Here's her column (below) as originally written.

By Rev. Elizabeth Goudy -- Pastor, Metropolitan Community Church of the LV

Let's say you have just moved to the Lehigh Valley and are preparing to start a new job and a new life in the community. You have moved here with your spouse of twenty years and you are exploring the area's parks, restaurants and grocery stores.

You have walked a number of the Lehigh Valley's beautiful pathways, you have found the best place for a pastrami sandwich and you have discovered the least hectic time to visit the grocery store. You are connecting with other people at work, in the neighborhood and at the religious institution of your choice.

Yet your family is not protected in the same way as other families because your spouse is a same-sex spouse and many area employers do not offer domestic partner benefits.

It does not matter that you have been married religiously by a church or synagogue that supports same-sex marriage. You may have a marriage certificate from a Metropolitan Community Church or the Unitarian Universalists or a Reform or Reconstructionist synagogue. While the certificate attests to a lifelong spiritual bond with your spouse, the certificate does not bring with it workplace protections that opposite-sex couples enjoy.

The Lehigh Valley's largest employer, Lehigh Valley Hospital, does not offer domestic partner benefits. Nor do the other area hospitals, such as St. Luke's, Sacred Heart or Easton Hospital. PPL and Air Products also deny these benefits along with other local companies.

There is no economic argument to withhold benefits, as these employers would not hesitate to provide benefits to a person in an opposite-sex marriage. Geisinger Hospital in Danville, PA offers domestic partner benefits, so it is not that health care employees in same-sex relationships are treated equally only in huge urban areas.

On the other hand, the area's colleges have really taken a step forward in equality and most provide domestic partner benefits. Lafayette College, Lehigh University, Moravian College, Muhlenberg College, Cedar Crest College and Northampton Area Community College all provide benefits to same-sex spouses. Companies such as Agere, Verizon, The Hartford and Dun & Bradstreet offer domestic partner benefits.

It is a good thing to offer health care with excellence or utilities with excellent customer service. We want to be able to rely on the business institutions of the Lehigh Valley for goods and services that improve our lives. But when companies provide better benefits to some worker's families and none to others, this is cause for advocacy.

A person of faith may pray to God for justice and also ask their Human Resources Director for equality for the families of all workers.

It seems that God's surprises in life so often center around the issue of inclusion. God finds a way to awaken us to the various ways we have excluded others from full participation in the kingdom of God. What is the kingdom of God? It is you and me and families of all different shapes and sizes and it is neighborhoods and workplaces and religious institutions.

Jesus was once asked by the religious authorities of his day when the kingdom of God was coming and Jesus told them, "The kingdom of God is among you" (Luke 17:21, NRSV). The kingdom of God is not just a future expectation, it is a here and now imperative. I do not believe disciples of Christ are called upon to shrink the kingdom of God to as small a group as possible. Rather, it seems that Jesus was continually calling his followers to expand their idea of God and break through their narrow ideas of how God works in the world. Jesus' ministry was a reminder to people that their idea of who is "in" and who is "out" is not God's will but the human sin of playing God.

Inclusion and equality are not just pie-in-the-sky unattainable spiritual ideals. They are possible here and the time is now.

RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey©

Dear Denise, I would like to purchase a home and I have very little money to put down. I have rented for 8 years and I don't feel that I am getting anywhere. Now that they offer No-money-down-loans, would it make sense to purchase a home in this fashion? **Signed, Wanting A Place**

Dear Wanting, Last year, 43 percent of first-time homebuyers purchased their homes with no-money-down loans, according to a recent study I read. This could spell trouble for some homebuyers, as the market cools, and interest rates rise, no-money-down buyers could end up owing more than their homes are worth.

Dean Baker of the Center for Economic and Policy Research told USA Today, if housing prices fall at lease 10 percent, it could be even more damaging than the collapse of the high-tech stock bubble in 2000. "If we do get a spike in mortgage rates, and a modest decline (in the housing market) turns into a rout, there's almost no bottom to that," Baker suggested.

Often the primary challenge for most homebuyers is saving up enough for the down payment, especially with prices at these levels. Mortgages that cover 97 percent of a home's value have grown in popularity. This does not mean that you need to follow the trend. No money down, interest only or minimum payment mortgages create higher risks for the lender. They will pass this on to you with higher interest rates charged. (The 30 year fixed rate mortgages are still the most popular choice of homebuyer.)

Along with the higher interest rates, lenders' will question your commitment to the loan and your ability to walk away from the loan, they will require private mortgage insurance (PMI), which covers the bank should you default. This can add up to .75 basis points onto the loan.

I suggest you begin by setting money aside for a home by cutting back in other areas: the gym membership, all of those channel choices, that cell phone upgrade, that new vehicles. These are the choices you need to ponder.

Denise McKelvey is a Financial Advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. located at 5100 Tilghman St Suite 170 Allentown PA. E-mail address Denise.M.Mckelvey@ampf.com

HIGH HOLIDAYS AT CONGREGATION AM HASKALAH

Congregation Am Haskalah welcomes the Jewish community to attend services for High Holidays. Tickets and reservations are not required. Rosh Hashanah is on September 23rd and 24th. Yom Kippur is October 2nd. For more information, times, and location, please contact Todd Hacker, 610-704-3372, ritual@amhaskalah.org, or visit www.amhaskalah.org.

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HOT NEWS

HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS : every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQI youth ages 14 - 20. Adult facilitator volunteers are needed for Wednesday evening meetings. Commitment: One evening per month plus a two hour training session. Contact Pete Pellegrino ,havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com or visit Haven's Web page atwww.uuclvpa.org/haven.

HUMAN REALTIONS COMMISSION AWARDS

The Allentown Human Relations Commission will celebrate its 29th Annual Awards Dinner on Tuesday, October 24, 5:30 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 902 Hamilton St, Allentown PA. The entire community is cordially invited to attend. The theme will be 'Allentown - No Place for Hate'. Tickets for the dinner are $40 per person, or $280 for a table of 8, reservations due by Tuesday, October 17.

The Allentown Human Relations Commission presents awards to recognize individuals and organizations in their unique efforts to promote good human relations in the City of Allentown and bridge the gaps between people of different cultures, ethnic origins, races, ages, and backgrounds.

The award winners for 2006 are: (Individuals) Walter Felton, Gail Hoover, David Howells, Jr., Carol Moy, Jay Scherline and Lauren Giguere, the first recipient of the Lauren Giguere Award of Distinction. Organizations winning the award this year are: The Lehigh Valley Center of Independent Living (LVCIL) and Olga Negron and the City of Allentown's Weed and Seed TALL Team.

For additional information or reservation information, please contact Gwyn Parker, Awards Dinner Chair, at 610-882-7028; or Nicholas Butterfield, at 610-437-7616. E-mail: Butterfield@AllentownCityOrg.

RAINBOW AA

Rainbow AA meetings Monday and Thursdays, 7:30pm 2nd flr, Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline:610-882-0558.

PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org. e-mail:info@eastern-pa-pflag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 3rd. Wed., Eastern Monroe Public Library, Stroudsburg. 570-620-1234. Pottsville- 3rd Thursday at 6:30PM, Terrence Reiley Community Building, 216 N. 12th Street, Pottsville: 570-624-3151 or e-mail pflagpottsville@hotmail.com. Meeting Dates: Allentown: October 3, November 7, December 5. Monroe: October 4, November 1, December 6. Reading: October 17, November 21, December - no meeting. Pottsville: October 19, November 16.

19TH ST MOVIES

TRUST THE MAN - Sept. 22-30: a comedy about challenges of love and marriage among modern day New Yorkers.

BOYNTON BEACH CLUB - Oct. 1-7: a comedy set in an "active adult" beach community in Florida.

HALF NELSON - Oct. 8 -12: an inspirational film that explores the relationship between a white man struggling with his own demons and a young black girl on the verge of losing her innocence.

KEEPING MUM - Oct. 16-22: a black comedy set in a small English country parish. The Vicar's marriage goes stale and his family life is in chaos. Enter housekeeper Maggie Smith as an older, darkly mysterious version of Mary Poppins.

19th Street Theater is at 527 N. 19th Street., Allentown

CIVIC THEATRE KICKS OFF 2006-2007 SEASON

Civic Theatre of Allentown presents its 2006-2007 Mainstage season: "A Man of No Importance," Oct. 6-22; "A Christmas Carol," Dec. 1-17; "Love! Valour! Compassion!," March 30 - April 21; and "Steel Magnolias," June 15-30. Subscriptions are on sale now. (610)432-8943 www.civictheatre.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH EVENTS

** **DON'T FORGET!!! -- MCCLV BANQUET TICKETS STILL ON SALE!! MCCLV'S 22ND ANNUAL BANQUET CELEBRATION** -- AT THE BARRISTER'S CLUB, 1114 W. WALNUT STREET IN ALLENTOWN, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 6:00PM - 11:00PM. TICKET PRICE $30.00 includes dinner, entertainment, and a night full of dancing!! CASH BAR, 50/50 - RAFFLES. TICKETS AVAILABLE UNTIL SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th. Get tickets at both the 10:30am & 6:00pm church services or by contacting Stephanie O'Donnell at 484-634-6834 or fellowship.ministry@mcclv.org.

** **Marsha Stevens in concert at MCCLV, Sunday, October 1,** 6:00 p.m. Worship Service.

"Marsha Stevens is conservative Christianity's worst nightmare: a God-fearing, Jesus-loving, Bible-believing lesbian Christian." says Dr. Mark Allen Powell in Christian Century magazine. As a teenager, Marsha wrote the hymn "For Those Tears I Died." When she came out as a lesbian, some churches ripped her hymn out of their hymnals. Today Marsha travels to hundreds of affirming churches and has found her calling.

** **Rev. Edgard Danielsen-Morales will be preaching at MCCLV's worship services on October 8,** 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. for the church's 22nd Anniversary celebrations. Rev. Danielsen-Morales is Pastor for Congregational Life at MCC New York. A scholar, activist and excellent preacher, Edgard brings a range of gifts to MCC New York and the denomination of Metropolitan Community Churches.

** **Halloween Dance at MCCLV -- Saturday, October 28, 7 pm.**

** **MCCLV Hosts 10,000 Villages Craft Fair -- November 11 and 12**

MCC of the Lehigh Valley is located at 1901 South 12th Street, Allentown (610) 709-8800 http://www.mcclv.org.

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY,

October 11 is one of the major celebratory days of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. Straight people who know someone who is GLBT are more likely to be supportive of GLBT rights. And you can't expect straight people to be fully supportive of you, if you're not honest with them about your life. Take time this October 11 to come out to at least one person.

MUHLENBERG GSA HOSTS DISCUSSION ON FAITH & EQUALITY

Muhlenberg GSA to celebrate 'Coming Out Week' with a discussion on Faith and Equality. Rabbi Torczyner, spiritual leader of Congregation Sons of Israel and Rev. Beth Goudy, spiritual leader of MCC LV will speak to members of the Muhlenberg Community about how religious doctrine and GLBT rights intertwine. Tuesday Oct.10, 6pm, Seegers Union, Room 113. Sponsored by the Muhlenberg College Gay Straight Alliance.

BERKS GAY MEN'S GROUP

The Berks County Gay Men's Social Group had several events in September including a trip to the Gay Rodeo, bowling and dinner, and dinner with guest Speaker State Chair of the PA Human Relations Commission, Steve Glassman.

The group's next big event is a Halloween Costume party, dance, bonfire, food and drinks on October 28. By reservations only!

BCGMSG holds social events for singles and couples two to three times a month for gay men from Berks County and surrounding counties. For more info email berksgmsg@aol.com.

BERKS GSA

READING-BERKS GAY/STRAIGHT STUDENT ALLIANCE MEETINGS are held the second Monday of each month from 4:30 – 6:00PM at Atonement Lutheran Church Parish Center, Penn Avenue & Wyomissing Blvd., Wyomissing (accessible by bus – BARTA route 14W). Meetings are open to any interested students. For additional information, e-mail RBGSSA@hotmail.com.

GLORA

GLORA (the Gay and Lesbian Organization of the Reading and Allentown areas) is a non-profit social group for adult men and women, both singles and couples. GLORA began in 1989 to help fill the social needs of gay and lesbian adults outside of the typical bar atmosphere. GLORA's activities range from potlucks, to game nights, bowling, movie nights, and holiday celebrations. Events are listed in a monthly newsletter that you will receive as a member. Some are family events that include children and some are just for adults. Specifics are noted in the GLORA newsletter. Members of GLORA may host events at their home or at an outdoor location if they desire. Hosting events is not mandatory to be a member. Membership: $10 per household, annually - covers the cost of newsletter informing you of events and member's news.

Contact GLORA leaders at GLORA@dejazzd.com or write to: GLORA, PO Box 414, Fredrick PA 19435.

GAY MEN'S CHORUS

LVGMC Artistic Director Search -- LVGMC Artistic Director Search -- The Lehigh Valley Gay Men' Chorus is accepting applications for the paid position of Artistic Director. Interested applicants should send a cover letter and resume to P O Box 20712, Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 or contact the LVGMC at 610-366-3320 to request more information.

GLOSS VOLUNTEER

GLOSS is searching for an interim bowling/ pinochle coordinator for a few months. Please email fabio@early.com if you would be willing to help.

READING PFLAG (BERKS COUNTY)

Meets at 6:30, PM on the THIRD TUESDAY of each month, September through May at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading & Berks County 416 Franklin St. Reading.

For information or to confirm scheduled meetings call: 610.858.9278. For more PFLAG information call the Help Lines: 610-967-5219, see www.eastern-pa-pflag.org or e-mail: info@eastern-pa-pflag.org.

Meeting Dates for Reading PFLAG: October 17, November 21, December – Holiday Break.

October 17 presentation will be: Gay Community Word Origins -- PA Diversity Network Executive Director and VGP Publisher Liz Bradbury will be speaking on the origins and actual meanings of the words (and symbols) that have been used to describe, insult and label the gay community since 600 AD.

November 21 will include a presentation by the Caron Foundation on its GLBT programing.

Reading members will participate in a panel on GLBT issues and concerns at the Unitarian Universalist Church on **October 22,** as part of the church's efforts to achieve the UUC designation of a "Welcoming" congregation. The theme of the service is "got questions?"Begins:10:30AM; luncheon hosted by PFLAG immediately following.

SYLVIA COMICS A NEW FEATURE

SYLVIA comic artist and author Nicole Hollander has graciously agreed to let Valley Gay Press feature Sylvia comics r. Sylvia comics have been a part of many cutting edge comic pages but VGP is the only local paper to feature this fabulous strip. Grateful thanks to Nicole for this swell opportunity! For more comics check out the Sylvia website at www.nicole hollander.com.

SYLVIA BY NICOLE HOLLANDER

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

SOOZ VIEWS ON FILM *By Sue Sneeringer*

If you haven't read it yet, I recommend a very funny column on www.afterellen.com by "Scribe Grrrl" sending up Nicole Conn's "lesbian classic," Claire of the Moon. If you're a fan of the film, you might want to pass as the column dissects every frame of the film and spares no barb in doing so. If you were grateful for the manna in the dessert it represented when it appeared on the cinematic horizon in 1992 but have moved on to want better films to represent our lives, you'll laugh your ass off reading it.

Me? I wouldn't mind seeing better films to represent women in general than what's out there now. Oscar looms and all the "good stuff" that's hoarded the rest of the year is trotted out in the next three months. I didn't see much this summer but of the films I did see only The Devil Wears Prada had anything to offer about the complexity of women's lives (actually, it had a great deal of substance to offer about the choices we ALL have to make to have careers). I thought World Trade Center was quite stunning in its simplicity but I also couldn't help thinking how relieved macho man Oliver Stone must have been to be able to tell a story where the women inhabited such traditional roles.

A recent Sunday New York Times Magazine cover story, "How About A Movie for a Woman?" illustrates in part how undervalued our stories are in the marketplace. I use the term loosely, because it suggests some finite thing, as if you couldn't develop a market for films that star fabulous women doing all sorts of things (including loving one another) if you really wanted to. Apparently, twelve-year old Dakota Fanning is more likely to be offered the starring role in a drama than most older female actors are. Vera Farmiga, the actor profiled in the article, has the talent of a Meryl Streep but the kinds of roles that Streep was given through the years are only available in independent film now. And many of those films never find a distributor. We never even get to see them on DVD.

I might agree that Claire of the Moon was a crappy film (devoid of a good script and, for the most part, any decent acting), but I always thought it really LOOKED like a movie. If nothing else, it was ON FILM, its images warm, offering gorgeous cinematic paintings. An epic quality, to stretch the point a bit (admittedly). I'm all for the indies. There wouldn't have been much reason to go to the movies at all in the last twenty years if not for the independent filmmaker! But call me old-fashioned. I remember Technicolor. I saw APOCALYPSE NOW and TERMINATOR 2 at the Cineplex Odeon on Sunset Boulevard, 70 mm prints on a VERY wide screen. So Claire gave me hope that one day our lives would register in such onscreen splendor.

We're going to have to push uphill a bit longer, I guess. Hope that we are all finally getting "tired of seeing movies about men damaging each other," as Farmiga says in the NY Times piece. In a way, I think Claire was also about coming out (as I must admit I also did in 1992). Not about converting the straight woman so much as opening ourselves up to all kinds of interesting lives we could be leading, interesting ways we could be loving. Possibilities. I haven't seen it for awhile. So maybe it's time to rent it again. But for such a crappy film, isn't it funny just how often you reach for it on the shelf at the movie store and find someone else has beaten you to it? Oh, well, maybe she's writing a column, too!

KU'S GLBTQ RESOURCE CENTER

The Kutztown University GLBTQ Resource Center's first event this semester was a performance by Tim Miller of his newest piece, Glory Box and a resedency working with a group of students, culminating in an ensemble performance. The KU GLBTQ Resource Center is a VGP drop off place and is located at 3 Old Main.

Rich Hersey Chico Perez

COMMUNITY MEMBERS MEET WITH BERKS CONGRESSMAN

Rich Hersey and Chico Perez of ChicoMax.com talked to Republican Jim Gerlach(R) of Pennsylvania's 6th congressional district about issues affecting the GLBT community. Congressman Gerlach has twice voted against the federal marriage amendment. Rich and Chico report that Gerlach said he would continue to oppose amending the United States Constitution to outlaw marriage rights for LGBT people. He also has a written policy barring discrimination for his own office. Though his record on LGBT issues is not perfect, he supports something like Civil Union for LGBT couples and says he will use his position of leadership and influence in the Reading area to push for a revised anti-discrimination ordinance for the City (though he is a federal office holder).

ChicoMax.com has repeatedly tried to meet with Gerlach's opponent, attorney Lois Murphy(D). She and her campaign are unwilling to meet and discuss LGBT issues with ChicoMax.com or other LGBT community groups.

OMICRON DOES R&J AT THEATRE OUTLET

A Hot-Blooded Revamping of a Classic...

In their first major production in the Lehigh Valley, the Omicron Theatre Project has teamed up with the Theatre Outlet for their 20th Anniversary Season to present **Joe Calarco's adaptation of the classic Shakespeare play Romeo & Juliet: Shakespeare's R&J**, a cutting edge version of the world's most famous love story as performed by 4 Catholic School Boys. A sexy, punk-rock infused re-imagining of the most famous hetero-love-tale ever told.

Directed by J.C. Lee.
November 3 --12
Theatre Outlet
930 N 4th Street
Allentown, PA
610-820-9440
www.theatreoutlet.org

The production stars OTP Members Adrian Anchondo, Aaron Novak and Len Neil as well as newcomer James Cusati-Moyer. Visit the Omicrom Theatre Official Website or Check the MySpace Style site to learn more about the cast and crew and to view the latest photos! Tickets will sell quickly, reserve your seat today. Group discounts are available! And don't forget to see the special preview at the Theatre Outlet on Oct. 6th as part of TO's Plenty for Twenty.

BERKS COUNTY PRIDE?

A group of people in Berks County are currently working to plan a Pride Event in Berks County. Stay tuned for more information.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

CALENDAR

Am Haskalah, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets, http://www.jrf.org/amhaskpa,610-435-3775
ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women,
AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424
AIDSWALK-see **FACT**
ASC-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701
All Together Now - Supportive Ecumenical Christians, 610-398-1286, bluemountain@entermail.net
BGMSG - Berk's County Gay Men's Social Group -- singles and couples social events berksgmsg@aol.com
BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360
CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <.civictheater,com>
CUUPS -- Covenenat of Unitarian Universalist Pagans every 4th Sunday at noon at the UUCLV. uuclv_cuups@yahoogroups.com.
Enigma Players -- qacres@prolog.net
equal@agere - email: equal@agere.com
FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519
GaydarMagazine -- www.gaydarmagazine.com
GLEE at Air Products
GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagranthollow.com/GLISN/>
GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown www.glora.1colony.com, glora@dejazzed.com
GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, www.gloss.org Info@gloss.org
GLOW- at PPL
HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV - call: 610-868-2153, email: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com
HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716
Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net"
Infoline - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449info@padiversity.org
INTERWEAVE -- GLBTAI group at the UUCLV. 3rd Sundays.. Interweave_UUCLV@yahoo groups..com. www.uuclvpa.org 610-866-7652.
LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email:info@lvmgc.org,<www.lvgmc.org> 610-366-3320, rehearsals:Tues.-Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem
Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition- 610-610-997-0976, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com
MCC - Metropolitian Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mcclehigh valley@ yahoo.com, http://www.mcclv.org 610-709-8800
Muhlenberg GSA Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244
NCC- Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541(#1386) or 610-767-0296
19th St & Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943
Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College
PA-Diversity Network- 610-432-5449 www.padiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
PA-GALA - Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance, (Candidate Guide, & Political Lobbying) P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610-863-0227 www.pa-gala.org
PARENTS- GLBT parent's group: 610-262-2519

OCTOBER 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 MCC AIDS WALK 19th St. Movie	2 RAA YOM KIPPUR	3 LV PFLAG LVGMC	4 HAVEN SPECTRUM	5 RAA GLOSS	6 CIVIC PLAY	7 GLOSS WDIY 19th St. Movie MCC Banquet
8 WDIY UUCLV HMFF MCC Anniv GLOSS 19th St. Movie	9 BERKS GSA RAA MUHLENBERG GSA	10 LVGMC	11 PDN Photos @ AirP National Coming Out Day	12 RAA PDN Photos @ NCC GLOSS	13 19th St. Movie Play @ PSU Berks	14 GLOSS MUHLENBERG PLAY WDIY
15 MCC GLOSS WDIY UUCLV HMFF MCC	16 RAA 19th St. Movie	17 LVGMC R PFLAG	18 HAVEN M PFLAG SPECTRUM	19 RAA GLOSS P PFLAG	20 Play @ PSU Berks 19th St. Movie	21 WDIY GLOSS
22 GLOSS BINGO! BINGO! MCC Interweave	23 RAA	24 AHRC Banquet LVGMC	25 HAVEN SPECTRUM	26 RAA GLOSS	27	28 WDIY GLOSS 19th St. Movie MCC DANCE
29 WDIY UUCLV CUUPS HMFF GLOSS MCC	30 RAA	31 LVGMC	SPECTRUM HAVEN	GLOSS RAA		19th St. Movie

NOVEMBER 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 HAVEN SPECTRUM	2 RAA GLOSS	3 R&C @TO	4 WDIY GLOSS 19th St. Movie
5 GLOSS MCC	6 RAA	7 LVGMC LV PFLAG	8 HAVEN SPECTRUM	9 RAA 19th St. Movie GLOSS	10	11 GLOSS WDIY 19th St. Movie MCC CRAFT
12 WDIY GLOSS MCC MCC CRAFT	13 RAA BERKS GSA	14 LVGMC	15 HAVEN M PFLAG SPECTRUM 19th St. Movie	16 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG	17 PDN CRAFT SHOW 19th St. Movie	18 GLOSS PDN CRAFT SHOW LVG CON
19 WDIY PDN CRAFT SHOW Interweave GLOSS 19th St. Movie	20 RAA	21 LVGMC R PFLAG	22 HAVEN M PFLAG SPECTRUM	23 RAA GLOSS	24 19th St. Movie	25 GLOSS
26 GLOSS MCC UUCLV	27 RAA	28 LVGMC	29 HAVEN SPECTRUM	30 RAA GLOSS	CIVIC PLAY	

DECEMBER 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 CIVIC PLAY	2 WDIY GLOSS
3 HMFF UUCLV WDIY GLOSS MCC	4 RAA	5 LV PFLAG LVGMC	6 HAVEN SPECTRUM	7 GLOSS RAA	8 CIVIC PLAY	9 WDIY GLOSS
10 UUCLV GLOSS MCC HMFF WDIY	11 RAA BERKS GSA	12 LVGMC	13 HAVEN SPECTRUM	14 RAA GLOSS	15 CIVIC PLAY	16 WDIY GLOSS
17 Interweave GLOSS MCC WDIY UUCLV	18 RAA	19 R PFLAG LVGMC	20 HAVEN SPECTRUM M PFLAG	21 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG	22	23 GLOSS WDIY
24 HMFF UUCLV WDIY MCC GLOSS 31	25 RAA	26 LVGMC	27 HAVEN SPECTRUM	28 GLOSS RAA	29	30 WDIY GLOSS

PFLAG - **LV** Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pa-pflag.org
Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <info@prideglv.org>, <www.pridelv.org>
Progressive Students Alliance - www.lehigh.edu/~inpstua/lvpsa/whatpsa.htm
QuEST - Student group at Lafayette College ,
Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.
RAA- Rainbow AA meetings Monday & Thursdays, 7:30p. 2nd flr Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.
Rainbow Families - donniearlucas@msn.com
Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., Meets at MCCLV renlv.org
Reading P-FLAG- 610-967-5219
Safe Space- At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973
Temple Sophia, Interfaith Sanctuary 117 E Ridge St., Coaldale 18218 570-657-6447 Pastor: Rt. Rev. Tom Cormier
T.O. - Theatre Outlet-, Allentown, 610-820-9270.
UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.
VGP - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449, VGP@padiversity.org VGP PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.padiversity.org
Wachovia-GALEA- Gay and Lesbian Employee Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com
WDIY - WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Sat. 6:00 pm This Way Out, Assorted Women 6:30 pm. 8100.88.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

RAINBOW AA - MON & THURS
BERKS GSA - 2ND MONS
LVGMC REHEARSALS - TUESDAYS
LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAYS
READING - PFLAG 3RD TUES
LV HAVEN - WEDS
READING SPECTRUM - WEDS
READING HAVEN - WEDS
MONROE PFLAG - 3RD WEDS
GLOSS VOLLEYBALL -THURS
POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURS
GLOSS RAC-BALL-THURS & SAT
INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAYS
GLOSS TENNIS - SUNDAYS
MCC - SUNDAYS

OCT 1- MARSHA STEVENS MCC
OCT 1 - AIDS WALK
OCT 2 - YOM KIPPUR
OCT 1-7 - 19TH ST MOVIE
OCT 6-22 - 19TH ST. MOVIE
OCT 7 - MCC ANNUAL BANQUET
OCT 8 - MCC ANNIV. SERVICE
OCT 8 -12 - 19TH ST. MOIVE
OCT 10 - MUHLENBERG GSA
OCT 11 -NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY
OCT 11 - PHOTO PROJECT @ AIR PRODUCTS
OCT 12-13 - PHOTO PROJECT @ NCC
OCT 12-15 - "WELDON RISING"
OCT 12-14;19-21 -"TURANDOT"
OCT 16-22 - KEEPING MUM
OCT 22 - PDN BINGO
OCT 24 - AHRC AWARDS
OCT 28 - MCC HALLOWEEN DANCE
NOV 3-12 - ROMEO&JULIET
NOV 11-12 MCC CRAFT FAIR
NOV 17-19 - PDN ART & CRAFT SHOW
NOV 18 - LVGMC CONCERT
DEC 1-17 - CIVIC CHRISTMAS CAROL

INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE!
TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449
INFO@PADIVERSITY.ORG

GOV. RENDELL TO ATTEND 20TH ANNUAL AIDSWALK

Governor Ed Rendell is scheduled to travel to Bethlehem to lend his support to the F.A.C.T. AIDSWALK

. AIDSWALK is scheduled rain or shine, OCTOBER 1 at the Bethlehem Rose Garden at 8th & Union Streets. Registration at 11:30am, walk/run/bicycle begins at 1:00PM. Each registered walker will receive a t-shirt and tote bag.

Since 1986, friends, parents, sons, daughters and partners of people affected with HIV/AIDS have walked to show support and generate donations to be distributed in the Lehigh Valley. This year's event promises to be the biggest yet and is scheduled to include a post event party with food, drinks, auction, booths, an HIV testing station and art in the park.

Organizations benefiting from AIDSWALK include: AIDS Services Center at St. Luke's Hospital, Daybreak (Lehigh County Conference of Churches), New Directions Treatment Services, AIDS Activities Office of the Lehigh Valley Hospital and F.A.C.T. LV.

F.A.C.T. LV (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together Lehigh Valley) is the non-profit organization that has been actively raising funds and AIDS awareness in the Lehigh Valley for two decades, benefiting multiple research, testing and support organizations. For more information, photos and individual/team registration forms call #610.820.5519 or go to http://www.factlv.org.

MUHLENBERG THEATRE

The Muhlenberg Theatre Association will stage Phyllis Nagy's Weldon Rising in the Studio Theatre, Trexler Pavilion for Theatre & Dance of Muhlenberg College from October 12- October 15, 2005. Performances are Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets for this special campus production are available by calling 484-664-3333.

Weldon Rising is a provocative visceral look at the aftermath of a violent hate crime. Set in a neighborhood in New York's meat-packing district during the early 1990's, the play flows through time, place and memory of several characters who witnessed the murder of a gay neighbor.

PA DIVERSITY NETWORK WELCOMES JEFF FALLER AND EARL SNYDER TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

HOLLYWOOD AND BEYOND

Before I get into the fall entertainment review, let me address the latest "news" from Hollywood...or Africa, or wherever "Brangelina" calls home these days. Under pressure, because they have adopted 12 kids and had 17 of their own (with three more on the way), Brad Pitt & Angelina Jolie have announced they will not marry until gays and lesbians are allowed to wed legally in the United States. A nice sentiment, to be sure, but between them, they're a couple times divorced already. And according to the National Enquirer, Brad is begging Jen to come back to him. I hope she doesn't take him back. I wonder if Angelina knows. Maybe that's why Brad keeps her in Africa; so she wont see the tabloids. Jen and Vince Vaughn seem like the couple next door. Brad and Angelina seem like the couple next door...if you live on another planet. In another solar system. In another galaxy.

Anywhoo, if the stars of Laura Croft: Tomb Raider and Troy want to back gay marriage, I certainly see no reason to scoff. They are apparently trying to change the world one cause at a time. Why do I have this strange feeling they want to adopt us? All of us. The children. The gays. The world. One world under Brangelina. If only all celebs would show such restraint.

Does anyone need to be reminded of the 5 minute Las Vegas wedding of Britney Spears and the publicity stunt marriages of Michael Jackson. Perhaps marrige is a certificate that should be earned after being in a loving, monogamous relationship for, say, 25 years. In the words of comedian Mo Gaffney, "I don't understand why gay people want to get married, but hey, they should have the right to be just as miserable as the rest of us."

Seek Out: -- Movies: Hollywoodland with Venice Film Festival Best Actor Ben Affleck and the radiant Diane Lane. Clint Eastwood's Flags of Our Fathers with Ryan Phillipe and Jesse Bradford. Christopher Guest's For Your Consideration (from the troupe who brought you the gut busting classic Best in Show) **TV: Guilty pleasures:** Dante's Cove on Here! Showtime's The L Word. Logo's Noah's Arc. **Newbies** - Studio 30, Jericho with Skeet Ulrich, and The Megan Mullally Show. **Returning greats:** The Office, My Name is Earl, The Ellen DeGeneres Show and let's pray for a return to form for Desperate Housewives. If not, there's always Footballer's Wives on BBC America which, for my buck, is far superior. **Music:** Future Sex/Love Sounds by Justin Timberlake, B' Day by Beyonce, Ta-Dah by the Scissor Sisters, Back to Basics by Christina Aguilera.

Avoid at all Costs: London Bridge, by Fergie from the Black Eyed Peas, sux. It sounds like she's auditioning to be a low-rent Pussy Cat Doll. Which would put her under the gutter. Skanky is the only word that applies. Instead of a parental warning, it should come with a surgeon general's warning: this song will rot your brain. Therefore, it will hit number 1 and become the new anthem for gay boys and teen girls all over the world.

Britney, please come back. All is forgiven.

PLANET Parenthood

donniearlucas@msn.com

by Earl and Donnie Snyder

Drag Queens and Diapers

Recently we attended the FACT Games at Rainbow Mountain. We had attended the Games in the past, but we were not parents during those events. This year Lucas, at age 32 months, had his day at the FACT games. This was his first experience there and definitely not his last.

Lucas enjoys most music, especially if it has a strong disco beat, so we were confident he'd enjoy the drag performances. It's not like he has never seen a man in a dress, wig, and full make-up. For years we donned "feminine wear" for Halloween parties. Not a big deal for us, but for Lucas to see us in drag was a little unsettling to him at first; two Dads suddenly becoming two mommies dearest, but he did learn to adapt and apparently appreciate the maternal attention he received. As for the other people in costumes, he kept some distance.

Nevertheless, Lucas loved the drag show at Rainbow Mountain. Maybe because he finally was able to get the full drag show experience -- comedy, style, talent, beauty, and star quality only a real queen can exude. Quite different than the deluded poor man's Baby Jane clones his Dads seemed to portray every year in costume.

Lucas was dancing with the music and watched intently as the performers energetically did their routines. Several times Lucas made his way through groups of people to tip the performers. The crowd thought it was cute. Lucas was even escorted to the stage by former City Councilwoman, Gail Hoover. Drag legend, Tinsel Garland, sprinkled some fairy dust on Lucas. We were ecstatic. But, all good things must eventually come to an end just as all dirty diapers must be changed. That was the signal it was time to go home.

It was a memorable day. Some lessons were even learned. Lucas learned that drag shows are fabulous entertainment. He also learned that if the performers can work the crowd for tips, he can certainly work his Dads for a few quarters every now and then, and that he does, every time he sees the Mickey Mouse ride at the supermarket. His Dads learned that one day their son will grow up to be a really cool dude.

RAINBOW FAMILIES UPCOMING EVENTS

Rainbow Families helps to coordinate family friendly events and gatherings for GLBTA families with children. Rainbow Families Leaders Donnie and Earl Snyder report on the September Lehigh Valley Zoo event:

"The weather was between sunny and sprinkles but it did not deter the families who planned to attend. Four families, with children ranging from 2 up to 6, spent about two hours touring the zoo and then had lunch in the pavillion afterwords together before leaving. The kids all had a great time observing the animals and feeding them. Parents had a nice time chatting with each other too."

Rainbow Families is now part of PA Diversity Network (PDN). Further information can be obtained through the Rainbow Families yahoo group -- http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LV. Or you can email Rainbow Family leaders Donnie and Earl Snyder at: donniearlucas@msn.com.

SCOTT SAYS

By Scott Laubner

Chipmunk Readers,

Some of you know this already. In July my Dad died. I'm not going to get maudlin on you. I am just going to remember the good times and there were many, many good times. He was a great, understanding Dad who lavished unconditional love on his children. Here is a little story to illustrate what I mean. My parents bought a winter house in Phoenix, AZ. It was really my Dad's idea and he dreamed of getting all the family to move out there. Then he would have everything he needed and be content. He really wanted everybody to pick up everything, move out there and then sell everything back in Pennsylvania. I said I would visit and give it a try. I arrived at the airport and he picked me up. We drove to their gated community in Glendale. They lived in a ranch house with a pool in the back. There was a DVD player and one DVD, Seabiscuit.

After taking a tour of the house and the neighborhood, I went on the internet and printed out a page of Phoenix gay phone numbers and called the first one on the list. "Hello," I said, "Are you a gay bar?"

"No," said the voice on the line, "We are a gay bed and breakfast."

"Oh, well do you have a bar in your lobby?"

"No, we don't have anything like that."

"Well, when you go out where do you go?"

"I go to blah, blah, blah bar."

"Well, I am visiting Phoenix and don't know my way. How do I get there from here?" I told him my Dad's house address.

"Oh, you're way out there. I wouldn't recommend going out. There are police traps between your house and the bar. The cops can be real a-holes."

"Oh, thank you telling me. Good Bye," And I hung up. My Dad walked into the room. "Dad, this place stinks. This isn't gonna work," And I told him what happened.

"What?!" he said, "Let me see that list of gay bar phone numbers. I'm going to start calling. You've got to like this place."

"Dad, be my guest, but Phoenix is not my kind of city, too spread out. I am not getting busted on my vacation."

I watched Seabiscuit that night. That vacation didn't work out, but being Paul Laubner's son did. Thanks for everything Dad. God Bless You.

LGBTQA TEEN GROUP SPECTRUM

AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD IN READING

Berks GLBT Youth -- looking for a non-judgmental place to meet new people, learn new things, see great movies, network with other lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth and their allies from all over Berks County? Planned Parenthood of North East PA now hosts Spectrum. Meetings offer positive role models, peer support, education and recreation for LGBTQA youth and their allies ages 14-18. Meetings are Wednesday evenings from 5:30-7:30, on the 2nd floor of Planned Parenthood, 48 South 4th Street Reading, PA. Use the Franklin street entrance.

100 COUPLES PHOTOS AT NCC

The PDN Photo Project --100 Same-sex Couples: Facing Inequality will be at Northampton Community College on Oct. 12 and 13 for National Coming Out Day events. There are now 127 couples in the project. Celebrate NCOD by seeing this great exhibition.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

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PDN LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS

September 22 - PDN Exec. Dir. Liz Bradbury spoke at Lehigh Valley College on GLBT issues.

September 24 - Rainbow Families Event at Lehigh Valley Zoo.

October 9 & 10 Photo Project - 100 Couples: Facing Inequality will be projected at Northampton Community College National Coming Out Day Events

October 11 -- Photo Project 100 Couples: Facing Inequality Exhibition at Air Products for National Coming Out Day

October 12 & 13 framed Photo Project - 100 Couples: Facing Inequality will be exhibited at Northampton Community College National Coming Out Day Events

October 17 - Liz Bradbury speaks at Reading PFLAG

October 22 -- BINGO!!! @ The Barrister's Club, Atown - 5 to 9pm Cash and other great prizes

Late October -- PDN Updates and revamps the PDN Resource Web site www.padiversity.org.

November 17-18-19 -- PDN Holiday Art & Craft Show

If you would like to volunteer with PA Diversity Network and the Valley Gay Press, please contact PDN at info@padiversity.org or 610-432-5449.

SECOND ANNUAL PA DIVERSITY HOLIDAY ART & CRAFT SHOW

PA Diversity Gallery Space,
427 1/2 N. 9th Street, Allentown
Reception: Friday November 17, 6pm to 9pm
Reception Entrance Fee: $7
($5 for PDN members)
Saturday, November 18, Noon to 7pm and Sunday November 19, Noon to 7pm
(Entrance is FREE on Saturday and Sunday)
Don't miss the gala artist's reception on Friday, November 17, 6 to 9:00 pm
At the reception: meet and talk with the artists, enjoy live entertainment by local jazz legend Roberta Meek, sample fine hors doeuvres and wine by Patricia Sullivan, shop and support the community. For further information:
email info@padiversity.org -- 610-432-5449

VALLEY GAY PRESS

web site: www.padiversity.org
Publisher, Managing Editor -- Liz Bradbury
Publisher, Editor -- Patricia Sullivan
Columnists: Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Denise McKelvey, Donnie Snyder, Earl Snyder, Stephen Libby, Scott Laubner, Sue Sneeringer and others

Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valley and Berks County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP)

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Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:
Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley
1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800
PFLAG Allentown -- see meeting schedule
Pride House at Muhlenberg College, Allentown
19th Street Theater -- 527 N 19th St. Allentown
Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley (UUCLV) -- 424 Center St., Bethlehem
Haven GLBTA Youth Group at UUCLV
Theate Outlet, 930 N. 4th St. Allenwotn
Most Libraries in Berks County
Planned Parenthood NEPA 48 S. 4th St. Reading

Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:
Diamonz Nightclub -- 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem
Stonewall Bar -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown
Candida's -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown
Hava Java Coffee Shop -- N. 19th St. Allentown
Fountainhead Books -- 641 Penn Ave., West Reading
Dreamscape Comics -- 310 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

Valley Gay Press is published 10 times a year monthly, excepting February and September. Deadlines are the 18th of the previous month, except the Pride - July issue which is earlier. The membership cycle of PA Diversity Network begins in January. Circulation: 1500-2000 papers per issue. Readership: 3500.

To Contact Valley Gay Press:
Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
Phone: 610-432-5449 Email: info@padiversity.org
To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP. Some restrictions apply.

PA DIVERSITY HOLIDAY ART & CRAFT SHOW

CALL FOR GLBTA ARTISTS AND CRAFTSPEOPLE

The second Annual PA Diversity Holiday Fine Art and Craft Show will be the weekend of November 17, 18, 19. If you are a craftsperson or artist with a good sales history and reasonably priced work, and you would like a booth space at this show, please call Liz Bradbury at PDN at 610-432-5449. There is no booth fee, but a 20% commission from sales is required. Crafters and Artists need only be present in their booths on the evening of Friday Nov. 17, during the show opening. Smaller quantities of work will be be accepted for a communal booth. Booth space is limited. A large community customer base shops this show. Call for more information.

PDN
PENNSYLVANIA DIVERSITY NETWORK

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name/s_____
Address_____
City_____State____zip_____
Phone_____ E-mail_____

- ☐ Senior dues (over 65) $5
- ☐ Individual dues $15
- ☐ Family dues $20
- ☐ Berks County (2006) - Free

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check to PDN.
Make checks payable to **PDN.**

Additonal contribution ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ other

LEHIGH VALLEY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

PDN
PO BOX 22902
LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002

BERKS COUNTY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

PDN
PO BOX 242
MERTZTOWN, PA 19539

BECOME A MEMBER OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY GAY PRESS

YOU CAN GET A FREE SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IF YOU LIVE IN BERKS COUNTY

A grant from Berks County Community Foundation to Pennsylvania Diversity Network (PDN) -- financially supports the expansion of the Valley Gay Press to a 12 page paper. The paper now covers Berks County. The grant will also support mailing the Valley Gay Press to Berks County GLBTA households for 2006.

Berks County Residents --To get your free 2006 subscription to the Valley Gay Press just email PDN at info@padiversity.org, or call PDN at 610-432-5449 or mail in the form on this page to give us your mailing address.

CIRCULATE YOUR GROUP'S INFO

This is a free way for GLBTA friendly groups and organizations to get their information to hundreds of new people in Berks County. If you represent a pro-GLBT group or organization, or if you would like to start one, email PA Diversity Network (info@padiversity.org) or call the PDN offices at 610-432-5449 to find out how to list and circulate information about your group. It's free.

BERKS AND LEHIGH VALLEY SERVICE PROVIDERS AND BUSINESSES

List your GLBT-friendly business on the PA Diversity Network web site. Go to the resource page at www.padiversity.org and just fill out the form on-line.

PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S UPDATES RESOURCE WEB SITE WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

is getting a major overhaul. Later this month, check out PDN's new upgraded site, with even more information and content than before. Valley Gay Press, GLBT Infoline, Rainbow Families and other PDN programs are all part of PA Diversity Network. PDN thanks web weaver Melinda Kohn for all her web site work.

GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level.

The current schedule is:

Tennis: Every Sunday at 5:00pm at the Muhlenberg College courts

Racquetball: Every Thursday and Saturday, starting at 7:00pm at the Allentown Racquet Club

Volleyball: Every Thursday at 7:00pm at the Catasauqua sand courts

GLOSS would like to invite the community to the following event:

Sept. 29 - Oct. 1 - Camping Trip & Volleyball Tournament at the Woods Campground

Stay tuned for fall activities including bowling, Pinochle, and game night.

GLOSS has an email newsletter that will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website.

GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website.

GLOSS on the web: www.gloss.org, or email: Info@gloss.org.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

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LIZ OUT LOUD©

HOSPITALS MUST OFFER EQUALITY

By Liz Bradbury

If you read the mainstream press, you've seen that local hospitals -- Lehigh Valley Hospital, for example (which happens to be the Lehigh Valley's largest employer) -- have had some pretty huge profits. Think millions.. Meanwhile, LVH, St. Luke's, Good Shepard and every other hospital in the Lehigh Valley still refuse to give domestic partner benefits (DPBs). So the Valley Gay Press is taking on the task of "working" on these institutions to get them to come across.

If you've been following the VGP over the years, you'll know that we managed to tweak some of the colleges into DPBs (while other colleges did it on their own, sans tweaking.). Now every private college (except the Catholic ones) in the Lehigh Valley give DPBs to employees, even the for profit institution Lehigh Valley College (formally Allentown Business School) gives them!

Employees of the hospitals have been asking management for these benefits for years. And they've been ignored. So we're going to take a new tack, humiliation. I just sent the below letter to the editor of the Morning Call.

To the Editor: A recent article highlighted the serious shortage of nurses both nationally and in the Lehigh Valley. Lack of respect was cited as one of the reasons nurses leave the profession. Yet Lehigh Valley hospitals have failed to understand what many other major hospitals around the state and country have learned. It's time local hospitals give domestic partner health benefits to their employees. While major Pennsylvania hospitals like Gessinger and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia woo away skilled medical staff with equal benefits, Lehigh Valley hospitals still don't get it.

A photo project by PA Diversity Network, documenting 82 Lehigh Valley same-sex couples, lists forty-two of these gay and lesbian people as healthcare professionals; including doctors, pharmacists, MRI specialists, Xray technicians, hospice workers...and 13 registered nurses.

The cost of giving same-sex domestic partner benefits is so insignificant that insurance carriers consider it nothing. So why don't area hospitals give these benefits to their employees? So far their answer seems to be, "We just don't care to". It's no mystery why nurses feel a lack of respect.

Liz Bradbury, Allentown

Another tack is greed. Over the next few months, I'll be contacting every major hospital in the state that offers DPBs. If they gives DPBs, I'll place an informational notice in the Valley Gay Press that alerts healthcare workers to employment opportunities at theml. Every GLBTA healthcare worker can take these ads to their supervisor, their HR people, management, etc. and simply say - "That hospital is offering tDP benefits, I need a good reason why I shouldn't leave here and go there."

We have some other plans as well. Maybe a public demonstration. But we'll leave those considerations to a future VGP. Meanwhile, write your own letter to the editor on this issue. (Also read the column Rev. Beth Goudy wrote in What's That About on page 2.) Remember, letters to the editor are the second most read part of the MCALL. Hospital management will read your letter.

ALL TOGETHER NOW CANCELS EVENT

All Together Now has decided to cancel the November 5th Wesley United Methodist Church service in Bethlehem, featuring Beth Stroud.

TRISH'S COLUMN©

By Patricia Sullivan

New Federal Pension Law Provisions May Benefit Your Family

Every same-sex family needs to know about and understand this new law. It could save your surviving partner tens of thousands in the inheritance of your retirement.

This new law, amazingly just passed by Congress allows you to transfer your individual retirement plan benefits to a non spouse beneficiary (a domestic partner, sibling, parent or anyone else) when the you die. The surviving partner can take the lump sum and roll it over into an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and draw on the benefits over a five year period or over his or her life expectancy. In the past, without this provision, the surviving partner had been forced to withdraw the total amount in a lump sum which was counted as taxable income and was taxed at a much higher tax bracket significantly reducing the amount of money that was ultimately received.

The law also permits individuals who list their same-sex partner or other non spouse beneficiary under a 401(k) plan the ability to tap their retirement funds in the case of certain medical or financial emergencies. This allows you to withdraw without penalty from your retirement plan to help your family out during a qualified financial or medical emergency.

To determine if your family will be effected by either of these provisions you must know what type of retirement plan you have. There are two basic types of retirement plans:

First, there are retirement plans that are owned by you -- 401(k) retirement plans, 403b plans for teachers and non profit workers and IRAs. You control to whom they may be paid and you choose your beneficiary by simply specifying your partner's name on the appropriate legal forms for the plan in which you are enrolled.

If you have employer stock in your 401(k) your beneficiary will now be able to divide the account placing the stock in a lump sum taxable account while rolling over the remaining funds into an IRA. The stock portion is taxable, but it is only taxable at the purchase cost of the stock. The remaining value would not be taxable until the stock is sold. Then it would be taxed as capital gains (capped @ 15%) significantly less than the 35% income tax rate.

Another type of retirement plan is the pension or defined benefit plan 25s, corporate profit-sharing plans and 457 retirement plans for government workers. Pensions promise to pay a retirement benefit to you under certain terms. The plan controls the funds and they may limit whom you may list as beneficiary.

If you have a defined benefit pension you must determine whether or not your plan permits the designation of a non spouse beneficiary. If it does, you may simply specify your beneficiary of choice on the appropriate legal form.

If your plan does not give you the option to designate a non spouse beneficiary, you may be able to take your pension as a lump sum and move it to an IRA. If you switch your pension to an IRA you can name your choice of beneficiary. If your plan does not permit a non spouse beneficiary and you cannot move your pension monies to an IRA, you will want to lobby your human resources officer and your union to negotiate the option to name a non spousal beneficiary in future contracts.

Remember, these opinions are for your information only and are not legal advice. Be sure to seek the advice of your own attorney, tax or financial advisor about how this law effects your personal situation.

FOUNTAINHEAD BOOKS & GIFTS IN WEST READING HAS DECIDED TO CLOSE. PA DIVERSITY NETWORK THANKS HILLARY SAYLOR OF FOUNTAINHEAD FOR ALL HER SUPPORT AND DONATIONS.

POP QUIZ 12

Name this famous person's long-time (or current) same-sex domestic partner...

1.**Sara Gilbert (**from Rosanne, Twins, The Class) **:** A. Allison Adler B. Jane Hathaway C. Dorothy Gale D. Barbara Gordon

2. **George Michael** (singer): A. Kenny Gross B. Jim Ronison C. Jay Cahill D. Daniel Clash

3. **Ellen DeGeneres** (talk show and sitcom star) **:** A. Rosanna Rossi B. Patricia Ross C. Portia de Rossi D. Patty Bouvier

4. **Abe Lincoln** (President)**:** A. Elijah Wilson B. Timothy Spear C. Joshua Speed D. Norbert Mead

5. **Gertrude Stein**(writer, poet)**:** A. Alicia B.Tourque B. Alice B. Toklas C. Allie McToklas D. Arlene Tobler

6. **Romaine Brooks** (painter)**:** A. Natalie Barney B. Isadora Duncan C. Virginia Wolff D. Eudora Welty

7. **Elton John** (musician)**:** A. John Polish B. James Radish C. David Furnish D. Tom Cornish

8. **Mary Wickes** (character actor in Now Voyager, Trouble With Angels, Sister Act)**:** A. Abby Conrad B. Joan Brown C. Angela Taylor D. Lorreta Fields

9. **Rosie O'Donnell** (talk show star) **:** A. Kathy Carson O'Donnell B. Kate Janeway O'Donnell C. Kathleen Wayne O'Donnell D. Kelly Carpenter O'Donnell

10. **Noel Coward** (playwright)**:** A. Graham Payn B. Robert Ronald C. Curtis Taylor D. Jason Lynde

1.A 2.A 3.C 4.C 5.B 6.A 7.C 8.A 9.D 10.A

WEST CHESTER, PA PASSES ORDINANCE

The Borough Council of West Chester, PA passed a Non-Discrimination Ordinance that protects people from housing, employment and public accommodation discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity by unanimous vote of 6 to 0 (one councilmember was not present for the vote) on Sept. 20. This passage makes 14 PA municipalities that have such ordinance protections. There is no PA State or Federal law that protects people from anti-GLBT discrimination.

VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW

Each month, the Valley Gay Press presents a short review of a novel or non-fiction book of interest to the GLBT community. Each review also appears on the PA Diversity resource web site, at www.padiversity.org. The VGP Book Review team especially seeks to introduce new works by emerging GLBT authors to the community. If you are an author, or know of a work you think the community would enjoy or learn from, send us a copy for review. See all our past reviews at www.padiversity.org.

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin,ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network

GLBT Infoline

PA-GALA

Valley Gay Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe-Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the GLV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater 19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley

Muhlenberg Theater Association

Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley

Touchstone Theater

Congregation Am Haskalah

The Lehigh Valley Progressive Students Alliance

The Consistory of St. Peter's UCC - Allentown

To add your organization to this list, Contact VGP

QUOTE #1

An Ipsos-MORI survey (in Northern Ireland of 1009 people) has rather surprisingly revealed that three-quarters of Northern Ireland residents say they are tolerant of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals and 88 percent believe there should be no discrimination against them. The glut of homophobia is to be found in the Protestant Evangelical community. 14 percent of Protestants admitted they were "not at all accepting" of gays.

QUOTE #2

"In trying to find and fight a shadow enemy, we create and take action against enemies among ourselves: Arab Americans, gays, immigrants. After 9/11, it got more difficult to be even a little bit different." -- **Contributed statement expressing loss and change, that was part of the 9/11 service organized by Rev. Anne Huey and Bill Arnold**

QUOTE #3

"The American Psychological Association (APA) released a statement (in September) criticizing groups such as Focus on the Family for creating an "environment in which prejudice and discrimination can flourish" by erroneously labeling homosexuality an illness and advocating for so-called "conversion therapy."

QUOTE #4

"Swinging Belleville rendez-vous,
Marathon dancing doop dee doop
Vaudou Cancan balais taboo
Au Belleville swinging rendez-vous
-- **The Triplets of Belleville**

QUOTE #5

"To get a perfect score, companies must explicitly ban discrimination based on sexual orientation, provide domestic partner benefits and offer diversity training. Beyond that, they must advertise to the gay community and contribute to GLBT community groups." -- **From an email Liz Bradbury's straight cousin Greg sent her to boast that his company, Northrop, had a perfect 100% score.**

The editorial columns and political cartoon that appear in Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG